

## Message Text

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12

ORIGIN OES-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-11 L-03

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02

INT-05 AGR-10 /114 R

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ERDA - W. SAVAGE

ERDA - J.VANDERRYN

FEA - D.COPE (SUBS)

DOI - J.JORGENSEN (SUBS)

OES/APT - A.RICHMOND

OES/APT - C.THOMAS (INFO)

ARA/MEX - T.R.MARTIN

----- 010886

P 240124Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 018019

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH, ME

SUBJECT:MEETING OF US-MEXICO GROUP ON COOPERATION IN  
DESALTING

REFS: A. STATE 251048, 22 OCT 75 B. MEXICO CITY 83

PLEASE PASS TO SCICOUN.

1. US-MEXICO GROUP ON COOPERATION IN DESALTING AGREED ON  
APRIL 76 AS TENTATIVE DATE FOR NEXT MEETING (REFTEL A).  
WE FEEL THIS MAY BE APPROPRIATE TIME TO BEGIN SURVEY OF  
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POSSIBLE TOPICS TO BE TAKEN UP AT MEETING. U.S. MEMBERS

OF GROUP SUGGEST DISCUSSION OF FOLLOWING AREAS AS BEING  
OF MUTUAL INTEREST:

A. INITIATION OF PROGRAM TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND  
DATA OBTAINED FROM OPERATING DESALTING PLANTS. SUCH INFOR-  
MATION WOULD INCLUDE PLANT CAPITAL, OPERATING AND PRODUCT  
COSTS, PLANT AVAILABILITY, PRODUCTION CAPACITY VS. DESIGN  
CAPACITY, SYSTEM EFFICIENCIES AND FAILURES, UNUSUAL  
OPERATING EXPERIENCES, REMEDIES TO PROBLEMS.

THE U.S. HAS SPECIAL INTEREST IN OBTAINING THIS TYPE  
OF DATA ON THE ROSARITO PLANT BECAUSE OF ITS SIZE AND  
SEVERAL YEARS OPERATING EXPERIENCE.

B. INITIATION OF FEASIBILITY STUDY OF USING FUTURE  
NUCLEAR POWER UNITS FOR DESALTING.

SUCH STUDY WOULD COVER USE OF BOTH BLEED STEAM (FOR  
DESALTING CAPACITIES OF ABOUT 30 MGD) AND STEAM FROM  
HIGH, BACK-PRESSURE TURBINE (FOR DESALTING CAPACITIES OF  
GREATER THAN 30 MGD WITH CONCURRENT DECREASE IN ELECTRICAL  
OUTPUT). THERE WOULD BE RELATED INVESTIGATIONS OF  
COUPLING POWER AND DESALTING PLANTS, TURBINE AVAILABILITY  
PROBLEMS, IMPACT OF DESALTING PLANT SHUTDOWN ON POWER  
OUTPUT, ETC. BOTH CFE AND INEN WOULD PROBABLY NEED TO BE  
INVOLVED. IT WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE TO ANALYZE ASSOCIA-  
TION OF NUCLEAR PLANTS WITH LARGE REVERSE OSMOSIS PLANTS  
FOR EITHER SEAWATER OR BRACKISH WATER DESALTING.

C. INITIATION OF STUDY OF EXPERIMENTAL FARM USING  
DESALTED WATER FROM SMALL (CA 5 MGD) PLANT.

SUCH PROJECT MAY BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEXICAN  
SIDE IN VIEW OF INTEREST IN USE OF DESALTED WATER FOR  
AGRICULTURE. STUDY WOULD INCLUDE SITE LAY-OUTS, CROPPING  
PATTERNS, DESALTING PLANT CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS, COST ESTI-  
MATES AND COST/BENEFIT STUDIES.

D. PROGRAM OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON IRRIGATION  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IMS) ACTIVITIES ON LOWER COLORADO  
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WITH POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE SITE  
VISITS, TRAINING AND EXTENSION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

E. GEOTHERMAL DESALTING

INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON U.S. AND MEXICAN PROGRAMS  
FOCUSSING ON DESALTING AND WATER SUPPLY APPLICATIONS.  
COOPERATION IN GEOTHERMAL WATER PROGRAMS APPEARS TO U.S.

TO HAVE POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.

E. ADDITIONAL AREAS IN WHICH WE CONSIDER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TO BE USEFUL INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

-- INTEGRATION OF GROUND WATER RESERVOIR OPERATIONS-  
COORDINATION OF STUDIES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER IN  
THE IMPERIAL AND MEXICALI VALLEYS.

-- GROUND WATER MODELING TECHNIQUES.

-- RESEARCH INTO THE ADAPTATIONS NECESSARY TO USE  
MORE HIGHLY SALINE WATER IN AGRICULTURE:

(A) NEW SALT TOLERANT AND WATER EFFICIENT PLANTS  
USING CELL MUTATION TECHNIQUES.

(B) DEVELOPING OPTIMIZED CYCLE CROP IRRIGATION  
PROGRAM USING WATERS OF DIFFERENT SALINITY AT VARIOUS  
STAGES OF CROP MATURITY.

-- RESEARCH IN THE USE OF ANTI-TRANSPIRANTS AS A  
WATER SAVING TECHNIQUE.

-- LAKE AND IMPOUNDMENT EUTROPHICATION STUDIES.

-- WATER RESOURCE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

2. U.S. TEAM WILL CONSIST OF JACK C. JORGENSEN CHAIRMAN,  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF WATER RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY  
(DEPT INTERIOR); DR. DAVID COPE, CONSULTANT, OFFICE OF  
NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION (FEA); DR. WILLIAM  
SAVAGE, ADVANCED CONCEPTS AND EVALUATION BRANCH (ERDA).  
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WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON DESIRABILITY OF  
HAVING SCICOUN RATHER THAN DEPT/OES REPRESENT STATE AT  
THIS AND FUTURE MEETING OF GROUP.

3. TENTATIVE AGREEMENT AT LAST SESSION TO HAVE APRIL  
MEETING TAKE PLACE IN MEXICO. WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING  
MEXICAN SIDE CONFIRM LOCATION AND EXACT DATE.

4. PLEASE CONTACT APPROPRIATE MEXICAN OFFICIALS WITH  
SUGGESTED LIST OF TOPICS AND OBTAIN GOM VIEWS ON AGENDA,  
PROCEDURES AND COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION. EMBASSY MAY  
ALSO WISH TO EXPLORE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING COOPERATION  
IN DESALTING DISCUSSED AT MIXED COMMISSION MEETING  
PROPOSED FOR JUNE (REFTEL B). THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE  
SOME ADVANTAGES IN HAVING AGENCIES AND EXPERTS NOW NOW

INVOLVED IN PROGRAMS LISTEN TO A DETAILED EXPOSITION OF  
CURRENT AND PROPOSED FUTURE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES. SISCO

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